

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 H-02 BIB-01 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SSO-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4989

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2057

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: RADIO LIBERTY

REF: STATE 62725

1. RE QUESTION IN PARA 2, WE HAVE REVIEWED TODAY SCRIPTS OF THE PAST YEAR AND FOUND A FEW INSTANCES, PARTICULARLY IN THE FRANCO ERA, WHERE NEWS ITEMS UNFAVORABLE TO THE GOS HAVE BEEN CARRIED ON THE "EUROPE TODAY" SHOW, THE BALANCE OF SUCH NEWS CARRIED ON SPAIN, HOWEVER, HEAVILY FAVORS QUOTES FROM GOVT SPOKESMEN AS AGAINST QUOTES FROM OPPOSITION SOURCES.

2. WHAT HAS BEEN CARRIED CRITICAL OF THE GOS ARE QUOTES FROM OPPOSITION POLITICAL LEADERS OR DESCRIPTIONS OF THEIR ATTITUDE, E.G. THE SPANISH OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE DESCRIBED AS POOR THE PROGRAMS OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL REFORMS EXPLAINED YESTERDAY BEFORE THE CORTES BY PRIME MINISTER ARIAS" (FROM A PROGRAM OF THE 28 OR 29 OF JANUARY).

3. CURIOUSLY THE SPANISH MINISTRY OF INFORMATION RECEIVES COPIES OF ALL SPAIN RELATED SCRIPTS, TRANSLATED INTO SPANISH,

AND TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN RAISED IN RECENT MEMORY. NEITHER DURAN NOR ANYONE ELSE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS SAID ANYTHING TO ANYONE IN THE
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EMBASSY ABOUT THE PROGRAM CONTENT BEING CRITICAL OF SPAIN.

IT LOOKS AS IF HE WERE SUDDENLY CASTING ABOUT AT THE
LAST MINUTE TO JUSTIFY CUTTING RADIO LIBERTY, EVEN
THOUGH IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT MIGHT BE BEST IF RADIO
LIBERTY IN FUTURE REFRAINED FROM CARRYING ANY SPANISH
NEWS THAT COULD BE PERCEIVED AS EVEN REMOTELY CRITICAL.
AT THE SAME TIME, WE SEE INTRINSIC HARM TO SPAIN'S
IMAGE IN THE SOVIET UNION FROM WHAT HAS BEEN BROADCAST, ON THE
CONTRARY RADIO LIBERTY'S SPAIN COVERAGE WOULD
SUGGEST A SPAIN WHERE LIBERTIES THAT THE RUSSIANS CAN
ONLY IMAGINE ARE OBSERVED.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: coburnhl
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